

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Caridi on October 30, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. **Claim 1** is rewritten as:

- - An adhesive for polarizing plates used for forming an adhesive layer in a polarizing plate in which a polarizer and a transparent protective film are adhering with each other via the adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive for polarizing plates is an aqueous solution containing a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin having an acetoacetyl group and a crosslinking agent , wherein a degree of modification of the polyvinyl alcohol-based resin by the acetoacetyl group is from 2 to 7 mol.%, and the crosslinking agent is mixed in the range of more than 30 parts by weight and not more than 46 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polyvinyl alcohol-based resin, and wherein a pH of the aqueous solution is in the range of from 2.2 to 4.3. - -

3. On page 1 of the specification, above the title: "ADHESIVE FOR POLARIZING PLATE, POLARIZING PLATE, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME, OPTICAL FILM AND IMAGE DISPLAY", the header "DESCRIPTION" is deleted.

4. On page 1 of the specification, below the title: "ADHESIVE FOR POLARIZING PLATE, POLARIZING PLATE, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME, OPTICAL FILM AND IMAGE DISPLAY", the following is inserted as the first paragraph:

- - This application is a 371 of PCT/JP04/18751 filed December 15, 2004. - -

Rejoinder

5. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-11 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(B), claim 5, directed to the process of making or using an allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, is hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on March 26, 2008, is hereby withdrawn.** In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The closest cited prior art of record, US 2002/0075428, fails to fairly teach or suggest, even in view of US 2004/0167260, US 3,318,856 and US 2003/0137732, the adhesive composition recited above. Applicant has demonstrated unexpected results regarding the combination of a pH range of the aqueous medium of from 2.2 to 4.3 for an amount of crosslinking agent of more than 30 parts by weight up to 46 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin that is dispersed or dissolved in the aqueous medium, and a degree of modification of the polyvinyl alcohol-based resin by an acetoacetyl group of from 2 to 7 mol.%, in terms of water resistance and pot life. See Table 1 (pages 42-43 of Specification) and Applicant's arguments dated 07/17/09.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sow-Fun Hon whose telephone number (571)272-1492. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample, can be reached on (571)272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Sophie Hon/

Sow-Fun Hon

Examiner, Art Unit 1794